National Kite

[Second Volume]

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[THE SUBJECT OF THIS WORK IS MENTIONED HERE SOME EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE FORM 1857 AD (SEPOY MUTINY/MAHA REBELLION/MILITARY DISSATISFRACTION) TO 1947(INDIA'S STRUGGLE FREEDOM)]

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The period from 1857 to 1947 marks the transition of India from a colony under the British Crown to a sovereign nation. This century was defined by a shift from localized resistance to a unified, mass-based national movement.

1. The Rise of Nationalism and the Partition of Bengal (1905)

Following the 1857 revolt, the British adopted a "Divide and Rule" policy to prevent future uprisings.

The Partition of Bengal (1905): Lord Curzon partitioned Bengal, ostensibly for administrative efficiency, but in reality, to weaken the epicenter of Indian nationalism and create a communal divide between Hindus and Muslims.

The Swadeshi Movement: This sparked a massive nationwide protest. Indians boycotted British goods, burned foreign cloth, and promoted indigenous (Swadeshi) industries. The intensity of the movement forced the British to annul the partition in 1911, marking the first major victory of organized Indian resistance.

2. The Gandhian Era and Mass Movements

Mahatma Gandhi transformed the freedom struggle into a mass movement by involving the peasantry, workers, and the middle class.

Non-Cooperation Movement (1920–1922): Gandhi called for the boycott of British schools, courts, and government services. It was the first truly pan-Indian movement, though it was suspended after the Chauri Chaura incident.

Civil Disobedience Movement (1930): Initiated with the Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha), this movement challenged the British monopoly on salt. It saw widespread participation, including women, and shook the economic foundations of the British Raj.

Quit India Movement (1942): Launched during World War II, this was the final and most aggressive mass movement. The slogan "Do or Die" galvanized the nation, leading to the mass arrest of Congress leaders and brutal British repression.

3. Revolutionary Movements and the INA

Parallel to non-violent movements, revolutionary fervor remained high.

Revolutionaries: Figures like Bhagat Singh, Chandrashekhar Azad, and Surya Sen (Chittagong Armoury Raid) challenged British authority through armed struggle, inspiring the youth.

Azad Hind Fauj (INA): Subhash Chandra Bose's Indian National Army fought the British on the battlefield in Northeast India. The subsequent INA trials in 1945 created a wave of sympathy and mutiny within the British Indian Army, signaling that the British could no longer rely on their military to hold India.

4. Communal Politics and the Partition of India (1947)

The British policy of "Divide and Rule" reached its zenith in the 1940s.

The Two-Nation Theory: The Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, demanded a separate state for Muslims.

Direct Action Day (1946): The failure of political negotiations led to widespread communal violence. The British, exhausted by the post-WWII economic crisis and the rising tide of Indian nationalism, decided to exit.

Mountbatten Plan: The British government accepted the partition of the country into India and Pakistan. The process was rushed, leading to one of the largest and most violent migrations in human history.

5. Attainment of Independence

On August 15, 1947, India finally gained independence. While it was a moment of triumph, it was marred by the trauma of Partition, which resulted in the loss of millions of lives and the displacement of countless families.

The attainment of independence on August 15, 1947, was a moment of immense joy, but it was immediately overshadowed by the daunting challenges of nation-building. The new Indian government, led by Jawaharlal Nehru, inherited a country that was economically devastated, socially fractured, and politically fragile, challenges faced by India post-independence:

1. The Trauma of Partition and the Refugee Crisis

The most immediate challenge was the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the Partition.

Mass Migration: Approximately 10 to 15 million people crossed the newly drawn borders, leading to one of the largest and most violent mass migrations in human history.

Rehabilitation: The government had to provide food, shelter, and employment to millions of refugees who had lost everything. This placed an enormous strain on the nascent Indian economy.

2. Integration of Princely States

At the time of independence, there were over 560 princely states that were technically free to choose whether to join India, join Pakistan, or remain independent.

The Task of Unification: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the "Iron Man of India," undertook the monumental task of integrating these states. While most acceded peacefully, states like Junagadh, Hyderabad, and Jammu & Kashmir presented significant military and diplomatic challenges that required firm action to ensure the territorial integrity of the nation.

3. Economic Backwardness and Poverty

Centuries of colonial exploitation had left India in a state of extreme poverty.

Deindustrialization: The British had destroyed traditional Indian industries, leaving the country dependent on agriculture.

Food Insecurity: India faced chronic food shortages and was heavily dependent on imports. The government had to prioritize land reforms, irrigation projects, and the development of heavy industries to build a self-reliant economy.

4. Communalism and Social Integration

The communal violence that accompanied Partition left deep scars on the social fabric.

Secularism: The challenge was to build a secular nation where people of all religions, castes, and languages could live together. The government had to draft a Constitution that guaranteed equality and protected the rights of minorities to prevent further fragmentation.

5. Linguistic Reorganization of States

The map of India in 1947 was a patchwork of colonial-era provinces.

Demand for Linguistic States: There were massive protests demanding that states be reorganized based on language (e.g., the demand for Andhra Pradesh). The government initially feared this would lead to "Balkanization," but eventually, the States Reorganisation Act of 1956 was passed, redrawing state boundaries along linguistic lines to satisfy regional aspirations while maintaining national unity.

6. Establishing Democracy

Transitioning from a colonial subject to a democratic citizen was a massive psychological and administrative shift.

Universal Adult Franchise: Conducting the first general elections (1951–52) in a country with high illiteracy and vast geographical diversity was considered a "gamble" by many Western observers. Successfully establishing a parliamentary democracy was a major achievement that defied global skepticism

Other books written by Kuntal Chakraborty

- History Of World(11.12.2020 and 2021-2023)[FirstVolume]
- পৃথিবীর ইতিহাস (11.12.2020and2021-2023)[প্রথম খণ্ড]
- সিরাজ দৌলার প্রতিশোধ (বাংলার শেষ স্বাধীন নবাব) কুন্তল চক্রবর্তী
- কুয়াশার রেশম (লেখক- শ্রী কুন্তল চক্রবর্তী, প্রসাসক- দোলন-চাঁপা পত্রিকা)
- ভ্রমণ বৃতান্ত
- History Of World(11.12.2020 and 2021-2023)[Second Volume]
- পৃথিবীর ইতিহাস (11.12.2020and2021-2023)[দ্বিতীয় খণ্ড]
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